

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W  
-----290714Z 017363 /13

R 281025Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4025  
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG

REF: DACCA 1461 (NOTAL)

1. BDG ANNOUNCED MARCH 25 APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR SHAMSUL HAQ AS MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ADVISERS TO THE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (I.E., MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS).

2. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR MAJOR GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT LACK OF EFFECTIVENESS IN COUNCIL OF ADVISERS AND SPECIFICALLY ABOUT ABSENCE OF ADVISER CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ZIA DISCUSSED THIS WITH VISITING

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PROFFESSOR G.W. CHOUDHURY AND SOUNDED HIM OUT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING THE POST. CHOUDHURY DECLINED TO DO SO.

3. ZIA HAS NOW TURNED TO ANOTHER ACADEMIC WHO WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF YAHYA'S CABINET, SHAMSUL HAQ, WHO IS 66. (HE IS THE SECOND FROM AMONG YAHYA'S EX-MINISTERS TO BE

ON THE COUNCIL; THE OTHER IS A.K.. HAFIZUDDIN.) SHAMSUL HAW HAS TRAVELED WIDELY AND HAS ATTENDED A NUMBER OF UNESCO CONFERENCES ON BEHALF OF PAKISTAN. HE IS A FORMER VICE-CHANCELLOR OF RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY AND, BRIEFLY IN 1975, OF DACCA UNIVERSITY. HE WAS MINISTER OF EDUCATION UNDER YAHYA. SINCE LEAVING THE DACCA VICE-CHANCELLORSHIP HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AT DACCA AND TREASURER OF THE UNIVERSITY. IN 1972 HE WAS A VISITING SCHOLAR AT THE WOODROW WILSON CENTER IN WASHINGTON. MORE COMPLETE BIO GRAPHIC DATA WILL BE SENT BY AIRGRAM.

4. INITIAL REACTIONS TO THE APPOINTMENT ARE LUKEWARM. HAQ IS VIEWED AS A PLEASANT MAN WITH GOOD ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS BUT IS NOT EXPECTED TO TAKE CHARGE OF HE MINISTRY OR TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICY. HE DOES, HOWEVER,

RELIEVE PRESIDENT SAYEM OF ONE OF HIS FEW REMAINING PORTFOLIOS LEAVING ONLY DEFENSE IN THE PRESIDENTJS HANDS. THE APPOINTMENT DOES NOT MEET INCREASING CALLS FROM POLITICAL AND OTHER FIGURES THAT A RECOGNIZABLE POLITICAL DIMENSION BE INSERTED INTO WHAT IS LARGELY A NON-POLITICAL AND LACKLUSTER COUNCIL. HIS WIDE AMERICAN AND WESTERN EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, SHOULD LEAD HIM TO BE GENERALLY FAVORABLE TOWARD THE WEST AND HE WILL SURELY BE MORE ACCESSIBLE THAN THE PRESIDENT THEREBY ADDING A POINT AT WHICH FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES CAN BE DISCUSSED ABOVE THE FOREIGN SECRETARY LEVEL.

MASTERS  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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